

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 26th Day of *May*, 1763.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:

Printed by Mr. JAMES DAVIDSON and ROBERT
FLEMING, Printers to the CHURCH of SCOT-
LAND, M,DCC,LXIII.

42

4

2

71



THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 26th Day of *May* 1763, and concluded the 6th Day of *June* said Year.

I.

The King's Commission to *Charles* Lord *Cathcart*, produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, 26th May 1763.



THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable CHARLES Lord CATHCART, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted to his Lordship last Year; which Commission was publicly read, with all due Honour and Respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly.

II. The

II.

The King's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

Edinburgh, 26th May, 1763.

Supraſcribitur, G E O R G E R.



RIGHT Reverend, and Well-beloved, we greet you well. The repeated Proofs which we have received, as well of the Loyalty and good Affections of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, as of their Attention to promote the Cause of Religion and Virtue, which we have above all Things at Heart, give us great Pleasure in assuring you of our most favourable and gracious Dispositions towards you, and of our Resolution to support that Church in all its Rights and Privileges, as by Law established. We have no Doubt of your exerting yourselves with a truly Christian Zeal, and conformably to the Intent of your Meeting, in the Discouragement of Vice and Infidelity; and you may rely upon our ready Concurrence with you in every Thing that may tend to the Advancement of Purposes so essential to the Welfare of our People.

The preventing of the Growth of Popery, and the instilling into the Minds of those committed to your Charge, a devout Reverence towards Almighty God, and an humble Gratitude to his divine Providence for the inestimable Blessings of Peace, which he has so lately vouchsafed to us, and all his other innumerable Mercies, are likewise such great and important Objects, that we are persuaded you will think them worthy of your most serious Attention, and heartiest Endeavours.

We shall receive the highest Satisfaction in being informed of your having applied yourselves, with your accustomed Piety and Prudence, to Matters so well deserving our Recommendation, and all your Care.

We have appointed our Right Trusty and Well-beloved CHARLES Lord CATHEART to represent our Royal Person in this Assembly; and as our Appointment of him arises from the Experience we have had, upon many like Occasions, of his Loyalty, Integrity and Zeal for our Service, so we have full Cause to be satisfied, that the same Reasons, together with your Knowledge of his Fitness to discharge this important Trust, and of his Affection to the Church of *Scotland*, will render our Choice of him to discharge the said Office very agreeable to you.

We

We conclude with recommending to you such Temper and Moderation in all your Proceedings, and such Charity, Brotherly Love, and Unanimity, as may secure a happy Conclusion to this your Meeting : And so we bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at our Court at *St. James's* the 9th Day of *May* 1763, in the third Year of our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

DUNK HALIFAX.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,



WE received your Majesty's most gracious Letter, with the Respect and Gratitude which are due to such a distinguishing Proof of your Royal Favour.

Your Majesty's Approbation of our past Conduct we consider as the most agreeable Recompence we could have received for having done our Duty. Your Royal Declaration of your Resolution to support our Church in all her Rights and Privileges, affords us the greatest Satisfaction, and we rely upon it as the most perfect Security.

It shall be our Care, in Obedience to your Majesty's Command, to exert ourselves so zealously in discouraging Vice and Infidelity, as will show how desirous we are to merit the Confidence your Majesty reposes in us, and we deem it our particular Felicity, that we are subject to a Sovereign who, by exciting us to our proper Work, shows us that the faithful and conscientious Discharge of our Duty, is the most certain Recommendation to his Favour.

We thankfully ascribe the Return of the inestimable Benefits of Peace to the Blessing of divine Providence, upon the Wisdom and Steadiness with which your Majesty hath carried on the Negotiations for that salutary Purpose ; and as by the Definitive Treaty with your Enemies, your Majesty hath gained Acquisitions of vast Extent, and of great Importance to your Crown, which far exceed the most sanguine Expectations of your Subjects at the Commencement of the War, and are fully adequate to the great Success of the *British* Arms, it hath been, and shall be our Care at this Juncture, to instil into the Minds of our People proper Sentiments of Gratitude towards

B

your

your Majesty, and of Thankfulness to Almighty God, whose Hand they discern and bless in the Conduct of this great Event.

We beg Leave to offer our humble Thanks to your Majesty for your Attention to the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, and of the Reformed Religion in the *Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*. It shall be our Endeavour to apply the Sum appropriated by your Royal Bounty for that Purpose, in such a Manner as may best answer the generous and pious Intention with which it is bestowed, and to exert the greatest Zeal on our Part to communicate the Blessings of Knowledge, and the Arts of Peace, to those of our Countrymen who have displayed their Valour during the War, with no less Benefit to *Great Britain* than Glory to themselves.

We have had Experience on so many former Occasions of the Loyalty, Integrity, and Prudence of the noble Lord whom your Majesty has appointed to represent your Royal Person in this General Assembly; we are so sensible of his Abilities to discharge this important Trust, of his Zeal for Religion, and of his Attention to the true Interest of this Church, that we consider your Majesty's repeated Choice of him as an additional Mark of your Favour and Regard to us.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that we shall conduct our Deliberations and Proceedings with such Temper and Moderation, with such Brotherly Love and Unanimity, as, we trust, shall secure to us the Continuance of your Royal Protection and Favour, which, next to the Approbation of that God whom we serve, we esteem our greatest Honour and Happiness.

That Almighty God may protect your Person, prolong your Days, and bless your Administration; that he may render the Peace, which you have concluded, as permanent as it is honourable; that you may behold the increasing Felicity of your People; that you may be honoured as the Instrument of divine Providence for their Good, and that, after reigning long in Righteousness, and ruling in Judgment, you may receive the Recompence of an heavenly Crown, are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders, met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

*Edinburgh, 28th
May, 1763.*

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, Moderator.

IV.

The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to the King, on the happy Event of the Peace.

May it please your Majesty,



E, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, embrace with Pleasure the first Opportunity of presenting our humble Congratulations upon the Birth of the Prince of *Wales*. As we are attached to your Majesty from Love, no less than from Duty, an Event which contributes so much to your domestic Felicity, affords us the most sincere Joy : As we are deeply sensible of our own Happiness, under your righteous and mild Administration, we could frame no better Wish for After-ages, than that the same Blessings which we enjoy might be transmitted to them : We adore the Goodness of God who hath heard our Prayers, and who now giveth us the Prospect that our Posterity shall be governed by a Prince formed by your Majesty's Precept, and taught by your Example, to be the Guardian of a free Constitution, and the Father of his People.

To our Expressions of Joy on Account of this important Event, we beg your Majesty's Permission to add our warmest Congratulations on the Re-establishment of Peace. After a long War, the most extensive, and the most successful, but, at the same Time, the most burthensome ever carried on by *Great Britain*, Peace became a desirable Object to a Nation whose Wealth and Power are derived from its Commerce. Your Majesty, undazzled by the Splendor of continual Victories, and always attentive to the true Interest of your People, took early Measures for procuring them this necessary Blessing ; and your Magnanimity and Steadiness have accomplished the salutary Work which your Wisdom and Humanity prompted you to undertake.

By a definitive Treaty with your Enemies, the great Objects for which War was undertaken are attained ; the Possessions of chief Consequence to *Britain* are secured ; new Sources of Commerce are opened ; and Territories are added to your Crown, more extensive and of greater Value, than have been acquired by any Nation since the Division of *Europe* into great Kingdoms, and the Establishment of a Balance of Power, have put a Stop to the Rapidity of Conquest ; and as your Majesty can now turn your whole Attention towards the Cultivation
and

and Encouragement of the Arts of Peace, which, even under the Pressure, and amidst the Avocations of War, you did not neglect, these, under your royal Patronage, must revive and flourish, and *Britain*, as it is the greatest, will become the most polished and illustrious Nation in Europe.

Nor are our Hopes of beneficial Consequences from the Return of Peace, confined to ourselves alone. As the chief Obstacles which have hitherto prevented the Instruction of the *American Nations* are now removed, we trust to your Majesty's known Zeal for promoting true Religion, and to the Blessing of the Almighty upon your Endeavours, that the People now under your Dominion which know not God, shall at length receive the Knowledge of that Holy Faith, which civilizes and refines the Manners of Men, at the same time that it improves and sanctifies their Hearts.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, That Sentiments of Loyalty and Attachment towards their gracious Sovereign, the Blessings of whose mild and paternal Government they have experienced, prevail universally among the People under our Care; and as, during the Continuance of War, their Courage in Defence of the Rights and Possessions of their Country, has not been inferior to that of their Fellow-subjects, so they will be no less zealous on the Return of Peace, to express their Love and Fidelity to your Majesty's Person, and to contribute towards the internal Vigour and constitutional Security of the Kingdom.

That Almighty God may bless your Administration, and prolong your Days; that he may preserve the Prince of *Wales*, to be your Comfort and our Hope; that he may render the Peace, which in his great Mercy he hath restored, as permanent as it is honourable and advantageous, are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

*Edin. May 28th,
1763.*

*Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and
at our Appointment, by*

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, Moderator.

V. The

V.

The General Assembly's congratulatory
Address to the Queen, on the happy
Event of the Birth of the Prince of
Wales.

May it please your Majesty,



E his Majesty's most dutiful Subjects, the Ministers and Elders, met in the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, beg Leave to take this first Opportunity of presenting our humble Congratulations to your Majesty, upon the Birth of the Prince of *Wales*. Our Attachment to his Majesty's illustrious House, and our Love of our happy Constitution, fill us with most sincere Pleasure, on account of an Event which contributes to the Preservation of the former, and the Perpetuity of the latter; our Admiration of your royal Virtues, and our Sollicitude for the Happiness of a Queen, so much and so deservedly beloved by our gracious Sovereign, lead us to participate deeply in your Majesty's Joy, on a Circumstance which increases your domestic Felicity, and must endear you to the King, and compleats the Hopes and Wishes of the Nation.

That Almighty God may prolong your Days, as a Blessing to the King, and the Joy of his People; that he may preserve the Prince of *Wales* for your Comfort and our Hope; that he may perpetuate and increase your domestic Happiness, and add to it all spiritual and divine Blessings, are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

*Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most
devoted Servants,*

*The Ministers and Elders met in this national
Assembly of the Church of Scotland,*

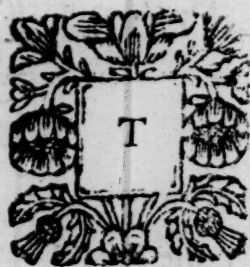
*Edin. May
28th, 1763.*

*Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and
at our Appointment, by*

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, Moderator.

VI.

Act anent Applications for a Share of the public Money.

Edinburgh, 4th June, 1763. Sess. 9th.

THE General Assembly ordered, That all Applications for a Share of the public Money in time coming, shall be transmitted to the Agent for the Church with the Grounds of the Claims, on or before the first of *May* yearly, that the same may be laid before the Procurator, who is hereby appointed to give a short State of the Case, and report the same, with his Opinion thereon, to the General Assembly at their third Sederunt; with Certification, that all Petitions or Applications for Money, not lodged in Terms of this Overture, shall not be received by that Assembly, but left in the Agent's Hands, to be considered and reported to the Assembly in the Year thereafter.

And the General Assembly do hereby recommend to all Presbyteries, to pay the greatest Attention to the 8th Act of Assembly 1719, which is hereby ordered to be reprinted, and inserted with the public Acts of this Assembly, and is as follows.

*Act for the right Management of the Church's public Money.**Thursday, May 21st, 1719. Ante Meridiem, Sess. 7th.*

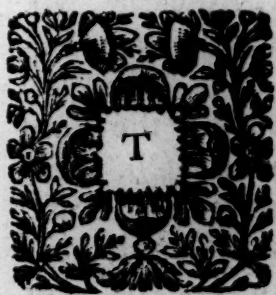
THE General Assembly considering, how unsuitable it is for the Church, to engage their Credit beyond what their Funds are able to answer: Therefore, to prevent this Inconvenience in Time coming, the General Assembly do hereby prohibit and discharge the applying of any of the said Money towards the Payment of the Expences of Process for Stipends, except in Parishes where Popery abounds, or such as shall be recommended both by the Presbytery and Synod to which the Parish belongs, and the Case laid before the Assembly, and their particular Order given for that Effect, before the Commencement of the Process. And the General Assembly does resolve and declare, That for hereafter no new Warrants or Orders shall be granted for Payment of any Money to any Person whatsoever, except to Preachers sent to supply in the North, for their Allowances: And they hereby strictly prohibit and discharge the Clerk of Assembly, or Sub-clerk, to write out, or the Moderator of this or subsequent Assemblies, to subscribe any Orders or Warrants for Payment of any

any new Grants out of the Church's yearly Allowance, until all former Debts, already contracted by preceeding Assemblies or Commissions, be first paid. And further, the General Assembly resolves and declares, That at no time hereafter any Warrants for Money shall be granted, until it be known, that there is as much in the Hands of the Receiver of the Church's Money, as will be sufficient to answer the same; and they appoint the seventh Act of the General Assembly, *anno* 1712, to be punctually observed; and do require the Procurator for the Church, when any Demands for Money come before the General Assembly or Commissions thereof, to acquaint them with the State of their Funds, and to read the foresaid Act, *Anno* 1712, and this present Act, to them. And the Assembly discharges the Committee chosen by each Assembly for auditing and revising the Church's public Accompts, to propose the giving either of Money, or Precepts for Money, exceeding that Part of the Year's Allowance belonging to that Assembly, which is free and unappropriated; and appoints them to bring their Report first to the Committee for Overtures before it be brought into the General Assembly. And the General Assembly also appoints the said Committee for the public Accompts, to cause this present Act, and the new Regulations that shall be made about Money, to be read to them yearly, and to reject all Petitions and Demands not in the Terms thereof, and to report an Account of any Breaches that shall be made therein to the Assembly.

VII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, 4th June 1763, Sess. 9th.



THE General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr. *William Robertson*, Principal of the College of *Edinburgh*, Moderator, Principal *Leechman*, Principal *Muirison*, Principal *Tullideph*, Dr. *Robert Hamilton*, Dr. *Robert Traill*, Professor *Schaw*, Professor *Lumsden*, Professor *Gerard*, all the Ministers, Members of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Messrs. *William*

William Carlyle at Prestonpans, Walter Anderson at Chirnside, George Cupples at Swinton, Robert Monteith at Longformacus, John Dickie at Langholm, Patrick Woodrow at Tarbolton, Robert Dow at Saltcoats, Archibald Davidson at Inchinnan, Alexander Dun at Calder, James Muirhead at Stonehouse, John Braidfoot at Dunfire, Duncan MacFarlane at Drummend, James Graham at Bonhill, Dugal Allen at Innerchoilin, Robert Thomson at Kilean, Hugh Campbell at Southknappdale, Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, Kenneth MacAulay at Ardnamurchan, Donald MacQueen at Kilmuir, Andrew Turnbull at Kippin, Adam Ferguson at Moulisne, Andrew Richardson at Inverkeithing, Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Thomas Cleland at Cambusnethan, David Black at Perth, Patrick Grant at Cromdale, Lewis Grant at Duthil, James Thomson at Dunfermline, Thomas Mutter at Auchtermuchty, Alexander Shank at Arbuthnot, Francis Downie at Banchoryterran, Alex. Stewart at Leslie, James Spence at Urquhart, Patrick Grant at Urie, John Sutherland at Halkirk, John Yule at Kirkwall, Alex. Pitcairn at Shapensfo, Andrew Chatto at Marbottle, George Barclay at Hatton, Dr. Robert Finlay, Andrew Williamson at Arngosk, Alexander Glen at Gallashiels, Andrew Skene at Banff, John Ogilvy at Midmar, his Grace the Duke of Athole, the Right Honourable the Earl of Breadalbane, the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven, the Right Honourable Robert Dundas of Arncliffe, Lord President of the Court of Session, the Right Honourable the Lord Justice Clerk, Alexander Fraser of Strichen, Esq; William Grant of Prestongrange, Esq; Robert Pringle of Edgefield, Esq; George Brown of Coalston, Esq; Alexander Boswall of Auchinleck, Esq; and Andrew Pringle of Alemoor, Esq; six of the Senators of the College of Justice; Thomas Miller of Barskimming, Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, John Maule of Innerkeillor, Esq; one of the Barons of Exchequer, Mr. David Dalrymple, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, Mr. James Montgomery, Advocate, one of his Majesty's Solicitors, George Drummond Esq; Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Archibald Ingram, Lord Provost of Glasgow, Doctor Matthew Stewart, Professor of Mathematicks, William Sands Book-seller in Edinburgh, Alexander MacMillan of Dunmore, Writer to the Signet, Bailie James Stewart, Mr. Isaac Grant, Writer in Edinburgh, Sir James Colquhoun, Mr. John Campbell of Stonefield, Advocate, Mr. Cosmo Gordon, Advocate, Mr. Alexander Murray, Advocate, Mr. George Wallace, Advocate, Mr. Andrew Crosbie, Advocate, Mr. John Swinton, Advocate, John MacNaughton, Esq; John Dalrymple of Cranston, Esq; Mr. Hepburn of Clarkington, the Lord Conservator, Doctor Thomas Reid, Mr. Harry Dundas, Alexander Gray, Writer, Mr. John MacLaurin, Advocate, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and Profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty given for these Ends, according to, and in Terms of his Majesty's

Majesty's Grant to this Assembly. In Prosecution of which Purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists to go to such Places as they shall find, upon due Information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's Design, expressed in his Warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular Regard to such Parishes in *South-Uist, Small-Isles, Glenco, Harris*, the Countries of *Moidart, Glengarie* and *Lochaber*, and the other Parishes of the Synods of *Glenelg* and *Argyle*, which the Committee shall find, by Reason of their vast Extent, the Prevalency of Popery and Ignorance, and other unhappy Circumstances, to be in the greatest Distress: And they shall take Care, that the Persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due Trial, to be properly qualified for these respective Offices, of good Abilities for the same, of a pious Life and Conversation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish Controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the Inspection of, the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are sent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duely observed by them: And the Preachers are also appointed to catechize; and both they and the Catechists to instruct the People from House to House, and to visit the Sick: And, in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such Instructions as to their Work and Behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which Instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard, in their Proceedings, to the Resolutions agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th Day of *September 1736*, approved by subsequent Assemblies; and to take Care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers, the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact Regard thereto in all the Letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them; and to direct all their Letters, concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of the Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Time mention-

ed in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the Purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Appointments laid upon them: And they are to keep a Register of their Proceedings, and likewise distinct Books of Accompts how the foresaid Money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the Persons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a Quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing Year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the Quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers, and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day shall fall to be *Saturday*, and then the Meeting shall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour; with Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places, as they shall find most needful and convenient; and they are to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and take their Advice and Assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see Cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for Assistance and Support in carrying on the Design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do by these Presents nominate and appoint Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said Committee, and according to their Rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the Accompts of the Distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Person once employed and insert in the Scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that Year, but by the Quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in Case any Complaint shall be made against any of them on the Scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary Meeting that the same is offered, but shall ly on the Table till another Meeting; and in the mean Time, the Person complained of, and the Presbytery

ry of the Bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such Complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just Account of the Matter, against their next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their Answers to these Letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first Meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next Year's Scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, that they shall name a Sub-committee of their Number for that Purpose, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a subsequent Meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the Rising of the Assembly as possible: And that the said Committee, in making up the Scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the Sum in the Grant.

VIII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, 6th June, 1763.



THE General Assembly considering, that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint, the Reverend Doctor William Robertson, Principal in the University of *Edinburgh*, their Moderator: And from the Presbytery of *Dornoch*, Mr. Martin M'Pherson at *Golspie*, and Mr. Hugh Rose at *Creich*, Ministers; and Alexander Gray of *Overskibo*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Caithness*, Mr. John Sutherland at *Halkirk*, and Mr. James Brodie at *Canesby*, Ministers; and George Sinclair of *Ulbster*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr. John Yule at *Kirkwall*, and Mr. Matthew Cleg-horn at *St. Andrews*; and Mr. John Pringle, Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Cairston*, Mr. James Tyrie at *Sandwick* and *Stromness*, and Mr. Thomas Hepburn at *Birsay* and *Harry*; and Mr. George Wallace, Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *North-ishes*, Mr. Alexander Pitcairn

Pitcairn at *Shapinsloy*, and Mr. James Lesly at *Rousay*, Ministers; and Bailie George Pitcairn of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Zetland*, Mr. James Buchan at *Walls*, Mr. James Gordon at *Fittlar*, and Mr. Cockburn of *Cockpen*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Doctor Daniel MacQueen, Mr. Robert Walker, Doctor John Jardine, Mr. Henry Lundie, Dr. Robert Dick, and Mr. Thomas White at *Liberton*, Ministers; and Bailie John Forrest, Bailie James Stewart, Mr. Robert Alexander, Merchant, Ruling Elders: From the City of *Edinburgh*, the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, and Mr. Charles Howison, Trades Councillor: From the University of *Edinburgh*, Doctor Robert Hamilton, Professor of Divinity: From the Church of *Campvere*, Mr. James Yair, Minister, and the Lord Conservator: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr. Andrew Gloag at *West-Calder*, Mr. Patrick Bennet at *Polmont*, Mr. John Aitchison at *Falkirk*, Mr. Robert Wishart at *Livingston*, Ministers: Lord Napier, and the Honourable Charles Hope-Vere, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr. Bernard Haldane at *Glenholm*, Mr. John Thomson at *Walstoun*, Ministers; and Mr. John Porteous, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr. Alexander Robertson at *Edelston*, Mr. Thomas Mushet at *Tweedsmure*, Ministers; and Solicitor Montgomery, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr. William Smith at *Cranston*, Mr. William Mackie at *Primrose*, Mr. John Goldie, Ministers; and Lord President, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr. William Carlyle at *Prestonpans*, Mr. Charles Cunningham at *Tranent*, Mr. George Anderson at *Pencaitland*, Ministers; Lord Coalston, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *North Berwick*, Sir George Suttie: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr. David Spence at *Cockburn's-path*, Mr. Gavin Henderson at *Stenton*, Ministers; and Sir Hugh Dalrymple, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunse*, Mr. William Home at *Foggo*, Mr. Robert Monteith at *Longformacus*, Ministers; and Robert Hepburn of *Clarkington*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, Mr. George Cupples at *Swin-ton*, Mr. Walter Anderson at *Chirnside*, Ministers; and Sir John Stewart, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kello*, Mr. Andrew Chatto at *Marbottle*, Mr. Robert Turnbull at *Sprucehount*, Ministers; Mr. George Rutherford, Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr. Robert Ricalton at *Hopkirk*, Mr. William Turnbull at *Abbot-rule*, Mr. John Cranston at *Ancrum*, Ministers; and Walter Scot, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Earlstoun*, Mr. James Foord at *Lauder*, Mr. David Scot at *Channelkirk*, Ministers; and Robert Kennedy of *Auchterfardel*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Lauder*, the Earl of *Lauderdale*: From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr. Simon Halyburton at *Ashkirk*, Mr. Alexander Glen at *Gallowshiels*, Ministers; and Lord *Alemoor*, Ruling

Ruling Elder : Burgh of *Selkirk*, Gideon Schaw of *Lawrieston*, Esq; Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr. James Gath at *Graitney*, Mr. Anthony Black at *Dornock*, Ministers; and Mr. Alexander Orr, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Langholm*, Mr. John Dickie at *Langholm*, Mr. John Scotland at *Eskdalemuir*, Ministers; and Mr. John Craigie, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr. Edward MacWhinny at *Applegirth*, Mr. John Walker at *Mosfat*, Mr. George Barclay at *Hutton*, Ministers; Mr. William Crombie, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr. Robert Hunter at *Kirkconnel*, Mr. Robert Aitken at *Morton*, Ministers; and Mr. James Kirkpatrick, Advocate, Ruling Elder : Burgh of *Sanquhar*, Mr. William Scot of *Carri-side* : From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr. Archibald Little at *Kirkpatrick-Irongray*, Mr. John Ewart at *Troqueer*, Mr. Archibald Lawton at *Kirkmacho*, Ministers; and Mr. Andrew Crosbie, Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Dumfries*, Bailie John Dickson : From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. Alexander Brown at *Tongueland*, Mr. William Boyd at *Carsfern*, Mr. William Donaldson at *Parton*, Ministers; and James Schaw in *Water-side*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Wigton*, Mr. Andrew Adair at *Whitehorn*, Mr. James Lang at *Glasserton*, Ministers; and Mr. John Hawthorn of *Overairies*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Stranraer*, Mr. James MacCulloch at *Kirkcolm*, Mr. David Henderson at *Lefswalt*, Ministers; and Doctor Robert Finlay, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Air*, Mr. Thomas Walker at *Dundonald*, Mr. Patrick Woodrow at *Tarbolton*, Mr. David Schaw at *Coylton*, Mr. Robert Wait at *Galston*, Mr. John Cunningham at *Monktoun*, Ministers; Lord Advocate and Lord *Auchinleck*, Ruling Elders; From the Burgh of *Air*, Mr. John Muir, Writer to the Signet : From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr. Robert Dow at *Ardrossan*, Mr. John Adam at *Kilbryde*, Mr. Andrew MacVey at *Dreghorn*, Ministers; and James Wilson, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Paisley*, Mr. James Bain at *Paisley*, Mr. John Schaw at *Greenock*, Mr. Archibald Davidson at *Inchinnan*, Mr. Alexander Kennedy at the Abbey of *Paisley*, Ministers; and Messrs. Walter Stewart and Isla Campbell, Advocates, Ruling Elders : From the Burgh of *Renfrew*, Bailie John Love : From the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr. Thomas Cleland at *Cambusnethan*, Mr. James Baillie at *Bothwell*, Mr. James Muirhead at *Stonehouse*, Ministers; and Mr. William Gilmer, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Lanark*, Mr. William Forrester at *Carstairs*, Mr. William Nimmo at *Roberton*, Mr. John Braidfoot at *Dunfyre*, Ministers; and Sir Archibald Denholm of *Westshiels*, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Lanark*, James Dewar of *Vogry*, Esq; From the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, Doctor Robert Traill, Mr. John Corse at *Glasgow*, Mr. Alexander Dun at *Calder*, Ministers; and Mr. John Pagan, Ruling Elder : From the University of

Glasgow, Dr. William Wight : From the City of *Glasgow*, Provost Archibald Ingram : From the Presbytery of *Dunbarton*, Mr. Duncan MacFarlane at *Drymen*, Mr. James Gray at *Strathblane*, Mr. James Graham at *Bonhill*, Ministers ; and Sir James Colquhoun of *Luss*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Denoon*, Mr. Dugal Allan at *Innerchaolan*, Mr. Richard Brown at *Kingarth*, Ministers ; and Mr. William Sands, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr. David Campbell at *Southend*, Mr. Robert Thomson at *Killeen*, Ministers ; and Alexander MacMillan, Esq; Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Inverary*, Mr. Patrick Campbell at *Inverary* Mr. Hugh Campbell at *Southknappdale*, Ministers ; and Lord Frederick Campbell, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Inverary*, Mr. Robert Campbell of *Asknish*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr. Ludovick Grant at *Archattan*, Mr. Patrick Campbell at *Kilninver*, Ministers ; and Mr. John Campbell, Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Mull*, Mr. Kenneth MacAulay at *Ardnamurchan*, Mr. Alexander MacLean at *Kilninian*, Ministers ; and Mr. John MacLaurin, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr. Adam Ferguson at *Mouline*, Mr. James Bisset at *Caputh*, Mr. Robert Williamson at *Lethindie*, Mr. James Hunter at *Auchtergavine*, Ministers ; The Duke of *Atbole* and the Earl of *Breadalbane* Ruling Elders : From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Mr. David Black at *Perth*, Mr. Andrew Williamson at *Arngosk*, Mr. Alexander Duff at *Tippermuir*, Mr. James Jobson at *Errol*, Ministers ; Mr. John Belfches of *Innermay*, and Mr. John Swinton, Advocate, Ruling Elders ; From the Burgh of *Perth*, Provost John Stewart : From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr. David Thomson at *Gargunnock*, Mr. Robert Ure at *Airth*, Ministers ; and Lord *Barjarg*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr. Alexander Murray at *Fowlis*, Mr. Robert Walker at *Monzie*, Mr. John Anderson at *Glendovan*, Ministers ; and Mr. Campbell of *Monzie*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Dunblane*, Mr. John Smith at *Kincardine*, Mr. Andrew Turnbull at *Kippen*, Ministers : and John Christie Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Dunfermline*, Mr. James Thomson at *Dunfermline*, Mr. Andrew Richardson at *Inverkeithing*, Mr. George Adie at *Carnock*, Ministers ; and Sir George Preston, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr. Matthew Mitchel at *Auchterderran*, Mr. Henry Moir at *Auchtertool*, Mr. Alexander Spears at *Abbotshal*, Ministers ; and John Ramsay Esq; Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Kinghorn*, Dr. Robert Whyte : From the Presbytery of *Cupar*, Mr. Thomas Mutter at *Auchtermuchty*, Mr. Thomas Stark at *Balmerino*, Mr. Andrew Hutton at *Cults*, Mr. John Miller at *Newburgh*, Ministers ; the right Honourable the Earl of *Leven* and Mr. Barclay of *Pitcaap*, Ruling Elders : From the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, Principal Tullideph, Mr. John Nairn at *Ansstruther Easter*, Mr. James Gillespie at *St. Andrews*, Mr. William Pairman at *Ely*, Ministers ; Mr. James Anderson at *Kin-
gask*,

gask, and James Durham of *Largo* Esq; Ruling Elders: From the University of *St. Andrews*, Principal Muirison: From the Burgh of *Anstruther Wester*, John M'Naughtane Esq; From the Presbytery of Forfar, Mr. James Donaldson at *Glamis*, Mr. Andrew Mitchel at *Aberlemno*, Ministers; and George Dempster Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Forfar*, John Adam of *Maryburgh*, Esq; From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr. James Playfair at *Luffe*, Mr. George Swan at *Lundie*, Mr. James Adamson at *Abernyte*, Ministers; and John Jobson Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dundee*, John Fordyce of *Ayton* Esq; From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothwick*, Mr. William Bell at *Aberbrothwick*, Mr. John Carnegie at *Inverkeilor*, Ministers; and Baron Maule, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Fordoun*, Mr. Alexander Shank at *Arbuthnot*, Mr. Robert Young at *Benholm*, Mr. Alexander Shank at *Eccelesgreig*, Ministers; and Robert Scott of *Dunninald* Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, Principal Campbell, Mr. Patrick Duff at , Mr. Samuel Copland at , Mr. Gavin Mitchel at , Ministers; and Lord *Prestongrange*, Ruling Elder: From the City of *Aberdeen*, Provost John Duncan: From the King's College, Dr. Thomas Reid: From the Marischal College, Dr. Alexander Gerard: From the Presbytery of *Kincardine-O'Neil*, Mr. Francis Downie at *Banchoryterran*, Mr. Thomas Mitchel at *Tarland*, Mr. John Ogilvie at *Midmar*, Ministers; and Sir Arthur Forbes, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Garioch*, Mr. Alexander Stewart at *Leslie*, Mr. Alexander Gordon at *Kintore*, Mr. John Bisset at *Culsamond*, Ministers; and the Procurator, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Inverury*, Mr. John Clark Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, Mr. Andrew Skene at *Banff*, Mr. George Grant at *Rathven*, Ministers; and Lord *Edgefield*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Cullen*, Mr. John Robertson: From the Burgh of *Banff*, Mr. John Dalrymple, Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr. Alexander Chalmers at *Cairney*, Mr. Roger Moodie at *Gairtley*, Ministers; and Mr. Cosmo Gordon Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr. Hugh Grant at *Knockendo*, Mr. John Grant at *Dundurcas*, Ministers; Mr. Isaac Grant, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, Mr. Patrick Grant at *Cromdale*, Mr. Lewis Grant at *Duthil*, Ministers; and Dr. Gregory Grant, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Elgin*, Mr. James Spence at *Urquhart*, Mr. James Crombie at *Longbridge*, Ministers; and Bailie Robert Grant, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Elgin*, Mr. David Sampson: From the Presbytery of *Inverness*, Mr. Daniel Brodie at *Calder*, Mr. Malcolm Nicolson at *Kiltarlity*, Ministers; and Mr. Alexander Campbell, Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Nairn*, Hugh Rose, Esq; of *Geddes*: From the Presbytery of *Channonry*, Mr. Robert Monro at *Kilmuir Wester*, Mr. James Monro at *Cromarty*, Ministers; and Professor *Robertson*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tain*, Mr. Patrick Grant at Nigg,

Nigg, Mr. Joseph Monro at *Edertoun*, Ministers ; and Mr. David Ross, Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Tain*, Mr. Henry Dundas, Advocate : From the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, Mr. Patrick Grant at *Urray*, Mr. Colin MacKenzie at *Fodderty*, Ministers ; and Mr. Albert Monro of *Coul*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Abertarph*, Mr. John Grant at *Urquhart*, Mr. Andrew Gallie at *Lagan*, Ministers ; and Colquhoun Grant, Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr. Donald MacQueen at *Kilmuir*, Mr. John Nicolson at *Portree*, Ministers : From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, Mr. John MacLean at *Kintail*, Mr. Colin MacFarquhar at *Applecrofs*, Ministers ; and Dr. Matthew Stewart, Ruling Elder : To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effect after-mentioned ; with Power to the said Commissioners, or their Quorum, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon ; and thereafter, the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator : And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their Quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly ; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets ; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force 'till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert ; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*;

Faith; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likeways to take Care that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing the same. And the said Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a Correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, for suppressing Popery and Superstition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in these Parts, and give Assistance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters, than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; declaring, that in, and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the Acts of the General Assemblies 1712, and 1719, respecting the Application of the public Money, which two Acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly 1761. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly, held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a Quorum, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits] the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet on any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meetings of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care, that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same: And the Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions,

F

relative

relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery, or Synod of this Church, shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meetings, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission, to make due Application to the King and Parliament, for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur during the Subsistence of this Commission. And the General Assembly do enjoin their Commission, that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.

+++++

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, June 6th, 1763, Sess. Ult.



HE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place, on *Thursday* the 24th of *May*, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and sixty-four.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, Ch. Eccl. Scot.

Overture

Overture anent Transmission of all the former Overtures.

UPON Report from the Committee for Overtures, transmitted by the last and preceeding Assemblies, the General Assembly agreed, that all these be again transmitted, and do hereby appoint, that such Presbyteries as have not yet sent up their Opinions concerning them, do send up the same to the next General Assembly. The Overtures are these: *1mo*, Anent sending up Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly. *2do*, For repealing that Part of the Form of Process anent Exculpations. *3tio*, Anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Causes appealed from them, and that the Report concerning them be brought in to an earlier Diet of the Assembly.

TABLE

V. The General Assembly's contribution towards the Queen, on the happy event of the Birth of the Prince of Wales. 2

VI. Anent Applications for a Share of the Public Mo- 10

VII. Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End. 11

VIII. Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for disposing Affairs referred to them. 12

IX. Anent appointing the Date of the next General Assembly. 22

Overtures anent Transmission of all the former Overtures. 23

Index. 24

TABLE of the printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1763.

	Page.
I. <i>THE King's Commission to Charles Lord Cathcart, produced, and ordered to be recorded.</i>	3
II. <i>The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.</i>	4
III. <i>The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.</i>	5
IV. <i>The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to the King, on the happy Event of the Peace.</i>	7
V. <i>The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to the Queen, on the happy Event of the Birth of the Prince of Wales.</i>	9
VI. <i>Act anent Applications for a Share of the public Money.</i>	10
VII. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.</i>	11
VIII. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.</i>	15
IX. <i>Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.</i>	22
<i>Overture anent Transmission of all the former Overtures.</i>	23

Index or Abridgement

OF THE

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1763, which are not printed at full Length.

AFTER Sermon by the reverend Doctor *Robert Traill*, Professor of Divinity in the University of *Glasgow*, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene in the Assembly House, *May 26th, Sess. 1st.*

The Reverend Doctor *William Robertson*, Principal of the University of *Edinburgh* was chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. *Ibid.*

The King's Commission to *Charles Lord Cathcart*, to represent his Majesty's royal Person, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for answering the King's Letter. *Ibid.*

A Motion for addressing the King upon the auspicious Birth of his royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, and upon the happy Conclusion of the War, by a safe and honourable, and to all Appearance, a lasting Peace, agreed to, and the fore-said Committee appointed to prepare the Draught of the said Address. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for revising the Commissions of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, receiving in Lists of the several Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded, and of Students of Divinity at the several Universities. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures named. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer, *May 27th, Sess. 2d.*

The Commission from the Presbytery of *Peebles*, to Messrs. *Robertson* and *Muschet*, and Solicitor *Montgomery*, sustained. *Ibid.*

The Act 7th of the Assembly 1718, for the better Dispatch of the Business of the Assembly, read, and the Observation thereof enjoined. *Ibid.*

G

Ministers

I N D E X, 1763.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter brought in and approven, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's Request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty. *May 28th, Sess 3.*

The Draught of an Address to the King brought in and approven. *Ibid.*

The Draught of an Address to the Queen upon the auspicious Birth of the Prince of *Wales*, being brought in upon a Motion, the same was approven, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's Request, undertakes to transmit the above Addresses to his Majesty. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, audite the Procurator and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of the Public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Committee, appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*. *Ibid.*

Committee named for revising the Synod Book of *Glasgow* and *Air*. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Sutherland*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Argyle*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Fife*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Ross*, *Glenelg*, and the Presbytery Book of *Zetland* absent, and resolved that the Reasons thereof be inquired into. *Ibid.*

The Committee for Overtures appointed to receive in from the several Members, any Instructions given to them from their several Synods or Presbyteries, class the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Assembly, and receive in any Accounts that shall be given them of the State of the Church in the North *Highlands* and *Islands*, particularly concerning the Growth of Popery and Superstition, to consider the same, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof. *Ibid.*

Committees named for revising the Synod Books of *Aberdeen*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*. *May 30th, Sess. 4.*

An Appeal of the Magistrates and Town Council of the Burgh of *Dundee*, and Ministers and Kirk-session of the Town and Parish of *Dundee*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, whereby they affirmed a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, refusing to transport Mr. *Alex. Farrier*, Minister at *Oxnam*, to be Minister of the Town and Parish of *Dundee*, heard; the General Assembly reversed the above Sentence, and translated the said Mr. *Alexander Farrier* from the Parish of *Oxnam* to the Town and Parish of *Dundee*, and appointed the Presbytery of *Dundee* to proceed to his Settlement as Minister,

I N D E X, 1763.

Minister there, according to the Rules of the Church, with all convenient Dispatch. *Ibid.*

A Petition for the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, anent the Insufficiency of the Church of *Kelfo*, and that they had recommended the Visitation thereof to the Presbytery of *Kelfo*, which they had not done; that an Advocation had been brought by some of the Heretors, of the Synod's Sentence, and that they had applied to last General Assembly for Advice, and the Assembly appointed the Procurator and Agent for the Church to give in Answers to the Bill of Advocation, if not passed, and if it was passed, to get the Reasons discussed; and the Assembly did assert the Power of Synods to enjoin Presbyteries to do their Duty with respect to the Visitation of Churches; that the Lord Ordinary had assailed the Heretors; against which Interlocutor a Representation had been given in by the Procurator, which was appointed to be answered, and craving further Advice and Direction, and to grant what further Aid of the Procurator and Agent, or other Council, and Assistance of the Public Money, as should be found necessary in carrying on and completing so important an Affair. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to consider the above Petition, and to report their Opinion thereon to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Motion with respect to a Reference from the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*; concerning Dr. *David Dickson*, that it might contribute to facilitate the Determination of that Affair; if a Committee should be appointed to consider of it, and report their Opinion to the Assembly, agreed to, and a Committee named for that Purpose. *May 31st, Sess. 5.*

An Appeal of Mr. *Robert Dalrymple*, Minister at *Dallas*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Murray*, deposing him from the Office of the holy Ministry, heard, and the Consideration thereof delayed till To-morrow. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to consider the several Applications for a Share of the Public Money, and to report their Opinion thereon to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Letter from his Grace the Lord High Commissioner to the Moderator, informing the Assembly of his Grace's Indisposition, and that the Assembly might proceed to Business in his Absence, if they thought proper. *June 1st, Sess. 6.*

A Report of the Committee for Overtures concerning Instructions, with their Opinion, that an Instruction from the Presbytery of *Dornoch*, craving a Salary out of his Majesty's Bounty, for a Missionary to be employed in the Heights of the Parish of *Croich*, within their Bounds, who may also serve the Heights of the Parish of *Kincardine*, in the Presbytery of *Tain*; and also from the Presbytery of *Channonry*, moving that Mr. *Harry Gordon* should be continued Itinerant at *Arderseer*, upon the Royal Bounty, referred to the Committee for the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*

I N D E X, 1763.

- A Representation for the Presbytery of *Cairston* concerning the Case of Mr. *William Nisbet*, to lye on the Table. *Ibid.*
- The Overture of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, concerning Plurality of Benefices, to be considered on *Friday*. *Ibid.*
- The Appeal of Mr. *Robert Dalrymple*, Minister at *Dallas*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Murray*, (mentioned in the Minutes of Yesterday) called, and the Sentence of the said Synod deposing the said Mr. *Robert Dalrymple* from the Office of the holy Ministry, affirmed. *Ibid.*
- Upon a Motion concerning Mr. *Robert Dalrymple*, the Assembly declared the Parish and Church of *Dallas* to have become vacant from and after the first Day of this Month of *June*; from which Time the Sentence of Deposition is declared to take Effect, and his Right to the Stipend to determine. *June 2d, Sess. 7.*
- The Report of the Committee named to consider the Appeal of Dr. *David Dickson*, Minister at *Newlands*, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Peebles* to the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, deposing him from the Office of the holy Ministry, and by the Synod referred to the Assembly, called for and given in; bearing, as their Opinion, that the Assembly should, in respect of the whole Circumstances of the Case, agree to take off the Sentence of Deposition, and suspend Dr. *Dickson* from the Exercise of his Ministry, until the said Presbytery shall see Cause to take off this Sentence. The said Report and Opinion read, and unanimously approved of, and the General Assembly do pass Sentence accordingly. *Ibid.*
- A Petition of the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, craving a Disjunction of the Parish of *Bunkle* from the Presbytery of *Dunse*, and an Annexation thereof to the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, given in and read. The General Assembly agreed, as the Parish of *Bunkle* is vacant, to delay the Determination of this Question till that Parish is supplied. *Ibid.*
- An Appeal of the Right Hon. *William Earl of Glencairn*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, whereby they affirmed a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Irvine*, refusing to sustain a Call for Mr. *William Lindsay*, Minister of the Parish of *Cumbry*, and to transport him from said Parish, to the second Minister's Charge of *Kilmarnock*, heard. The General Assembly reversed the above Sentences, and sustained the Presentation and Call to Mr. *William Lindsay*, and appointed the Presbytery to proceed without Delay to judge in the Question of his Transportation according to the Rules of the Church. *Ibid.*
- A Petition for Mr. *Adamson*, read, and remitted to the Committee for considering Applications for Money out of the Public Fund. *June 3d. Sess. 8.*
- The Members from the several Synods appointed to meet among themselves, in order to bring in a List of the Nominators

I N D E X, 1763.

nators of the Commission, according to the 6th Act of the Assembly 1705. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee concerning the Church of *Kelso*, called for, and read, bearing, That they had read a State of all the Facts, and were of Opinion, as the Cause is now depending before the Civil Court, it would be improper for the Assembly to interpose any further, than to appoint the Procurator and Agent to get the Reasons of Advocation discussed, and to advert to the Interest of the Church in this Matter. This unanimously agreed to by the Assembly. *Ibid.*

Committee named to enquire anent the Collections made for the *Irish* Students. *Ibid.*

A Petition for the Presbytery of *Dunse*, bearing, that the united Parishes of *Preston* and *Bunkle* being vacant, two Presentations were laid before them, one by his Majesty, the other by the Curators of *Archibald Douglas* of *Douglas*, Esq; that *Archibald Douglas* had obtained a Decree of Declarator in his Favours, against the Crown, but that an Appeal was intended, and craving the Assembly's Advice. The General Assembly, upon Consent of Mr. *Douglas*'s Curators, agreed to delay proceeding to the Settlement, till the Right of Patronage be determined, and recommended to the Presbytery accordingly. *Ibid.*

Overture from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, concerning Plurality of Benefices, dismissed. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book given in and read, and the Commission's Conduct approved of. The Assembly's Thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their Faithfulness and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them, and their Book ordered to be attested. *June 4th, Sess. 9.*

The Accompts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, with the Report of the Committee on the public Accompts thereon, brought in, and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Trustees of the Widows Fund, brought in, and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee named to consider the Applications for a Share of the public Money, given in, and read, transmitting to the Assembly several Petitions, together with an Overture concerning other Petitions not transmitted by them; And also, an Overture concerning all Applications for Money in Time coming; and further, laying before the Assembly, a State of the public Fund of the Church, and of the Amount of the Debt: The first Part of the Report, viz. concerning Petitions transmitted, being considered, the Assembly appointed as follows: To Messrs. *James Buchan*, and *James Gordon*, Commissioners from the Presbytery of *Zetland*; and Mr. *Donald McQueen*, Commissioner from the Presbytery of *Skye*, the Sum of 4*l.* *Sterl.* each, of *viaticum* for

I N D E X, 1763.

their Attendance on this Assembly: The following Persons to be Creditors on the public Fund, for the Sums after-mentioned to be become due to them, after the Debts already contracted upon the Fund are cleared; under this Provision, that they shall produce to the Procurator for the Church their Agent's Accompt, and, notwithstanding the Sums after-mentioned, shall not be intitled to any more than the Expences laid out by them, and not allowed by the Court of Session, viz. Mr. *Francis Downie* at *Banchoryterran* a Sum not exceeding 5 l. Mr. *William Nisbet* at *Frith* and *Stonehouse* 35 l. Mr. *James Gordon* at *Fetlar* and *Yell* 20 l. Mr. *Andrew Turnbull* at *Kippen*, a Sum not exceeding 15 l. Mr. *John Buchanan* at *Foulden* a Sum not exceeding 10 l. Mr. *John Robertson* at *Dumblain* 20 l. Mr. *James Turnbull* at *Linton* 10 l. Upon a Recommendation of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, and a Petition of Mr. *John Lumisden*, Professor of Divinity in the King's College there, it being represented by the Procurator, as his Opinion, that the Professor had a just Ground of Action, and that he found from the Agent's Accompt, that he had already expended thereon 21 l. 12 s. 10 d. The Assembly appoints Professor *Lumisden* a Creditor on the Fund for the said Sum, to become due to him, after the Debts upon the Fund preceeding this Date, are cleared. *Ibid.*

Upon a Petition of Mr. *John Abell*, the Assembly recommends to him, to bring an Action for recovering any Dilapidation of his Stipend, or obtaining an Augmentation; appoints their Procurator and Agent to attend to the same, with Power to Mr. *Abell* to apply for such Allowance of Expence, at the Issue of the Cause, as the Assembly, from the Circumstances of the Case, shall think him entitled to; and the Assembly testifies their Approbation of the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, for their Attention to what is enjoined by the 8th Act of the last Assembly. *Ibid.*

Petition of the Presbytery of *Perth*, concerning the Designation of a Moss to the Minister of *St. Martins*, granted, appointing this Process to be carried on at the public Expence. *Ibid.*

Upon the second Part of the Committee's Report, respecting other Petitions not transmitted by them, the Assembly ordain that all these other Petitions be lodged in the Agent's Hands, and the Parties having Interest, to send the Vouchers of the Facts therein contained, betwixt and the first Day of *November* next; and when so lodged, the Agent to lay them before the Procurator, that he may consider the same, and report them, with his Opinion thereon, to the next General Assembly. *Ibid.*

Upon the third Part of the Committee's Report, respecting future Applications for Money. See Act of Assembly, p. 10.

Petition for Mr. *Archibald MacCaulay*, craving the Assistance of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on a Process for redressing certain Grievances, and for having his Stipend ascertained, granted. *Ibid.*

I N D E X, 1763.

A Committee for preparing an Overture, concerning the Method of proceeding in Applications for a Share in the public Fund, named. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Register given in and read, the Conduct of the Managers approved of, and their Book ordered to be attested. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee concerning the Collection for *Irish* Students read, and agreed to. *Ibid.*

Petition and Appeal of *Alexander Bayne*, referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

Petition of Mr. *Alexander Pope*, craving an Allowance for a Missionary, referred to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*

Petition of Mr. *Alexander Skene*, and Representation from the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, concerning the *Enzie* and *Portfoy*, delayed till Monday. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Glasgow* attested. *Ibid.*

Upon a Report and Overture from the Committee, appointed to consider what may be further proper with respect to future Applications for a Share of the public Money, the General Assembly recommends to all Presbyteries to pay the greatest Attention to the 8th Act of Assembly 1719, which is ordered to be reprinted with the Acts of this Assembly. *June 6th, Sess. ult.*

Dr. *George Wishart*, principal Clerk, appointed Receiver, in the Room of Mr. *William Ross* deceased, of what Collections for the *Irish* Students have not been given in, and of what Money shall be further collected. The Committees at *Edinburgh* and *Glasgow*, appointed by last Assembly for the Management and Application of this Fund, continued; and such Ministers as have not yet made a Collection for the Purpose above mentioned, appointed to make and transmit the same as soon as possible. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing Instructions to them, brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

The following Affairs depending before the Commission of last Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission of this Assembly, Appeal *James Ballantyne* of *Priesthope*, Petition *James Lawrie* in *Duglie*, and Memorial for the Synod of *Dumfries* for Advice. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Accompt of Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, his Intromissions with his Majesty's Allowance, for defraying the public Charges of the Church, for *Lady-day*, *Midsummer*, *Michaelmas* and *Christmas* 1762, and appointing that the Balance of 110 l. 4 s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. *Sterling*, in his Hands, be charged in his next Accompt. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Accompt of *James Edmonstone* Agent for the Church, and Sub-clerk to the General Assembly, and appointing that he have Credit in his next Accompt for the Balance of 3 l. 6 s. *Sterling*. *Ibid.*

Upon

I N D E X, 1763.

Upon the Report of the Committee for Overtures, transmitted by the last and preceeding Assemblies, the General Assembly again transmitted them, and appointed, that such Presbyteries as have not sent up their Opinions concerning them, do send up the same to the next General Assembly. The Overtures are, *1mo*, Anent sending up Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly. *2do*, For repealing that Part of the Form of Process anent Exculpations. *3tio*, Anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Causes appealed from them, and that the Report concerning them be brought in to an earlier Diet of the Assembly. *Ibid.*

Synod Book of *Sutherland* referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

Synod Books of *Aberdeen*, and *Merse and Teviotdale*, attested. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a State of the Fund under their Management, and an Account of their Proceedings since last Assembly, reproduced, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose. *Ibid.*

A Petition of Mr. *Andrew Skene*, and two Representations from the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, complaining of withdrawing the Itinerancies from the *Enzie* and *Fordyce*, and praying the Assembly may recommend to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty to continue these Itinerancies. The foresaid Petition and Representations read, and referred to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*

Report of the Committee on the State of the *Enzie* Fund, remitted to the Commission. *Ibid.*

List of Probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded. In twenty-three Presbyteries 76 Probationers. *Ibid.*

Appointment of the same Committee concerning the Window Tax, with the Addition of some Members, with the same Powers and Instructions as were given by last Assembly, and with Power to them to call for Aid out of the public Fund of the Church, for carrying on an Application to Parliament for Relief from the said Tax, if such Application shall be found expedient. *Ibid.*

Names of the said Committee. *Ibid.*

A Motion concerning new Erections in the *Highlands*, referred to the above Committee for the Window Tax. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of this Assembly's Proceedings, at this and all the other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of this Assembly as are to be standing Rules, or are of public Use, in order to their being printed. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly, and to his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner's Speech in Return thereto, and then the Assembly concluded. *Ibid.*

